WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for identifying one of a plurality of devices in a model vehicle system, comprising:

positioning a remote control device near a first one of said devices;

transmitting between said first device and said remote, such that only a narrow transmission is received, so that said first model vehicle is not interfered with by other devices, and only said first device responds to said transmission; and

transmitting data between said first device and said remote control device.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said narrow transmission is achieved by recessing a detector.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein said narrow transmission is achieved by recessing a transmitter.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said transmission is an infrared transmission.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said first device transmits an identification code to said remote control device.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein said first device repeatedly transmits.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein said first device transmits said identification code in response to a transmitted request from said remote control.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said remote control device transmits a signal which is reflected off a reflective code on said device.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said device is an accessory.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said device is a model vehicle.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising:

determining an ID of said model vehicle from said limited field transmission; and

providing a command to said model vehicle from said remote, using said ID, along a communication channel separate from said limited field transmission.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising:

associating, in said remote control, at least one control input with a control function for said vehicle with said ID.

13. A method for identifying one of a plurality of model trains, comprising:

periodically transmitting from a first model train an ID for said first model train in a limited field infrared transmission;

positioning a remote control device near said first model train so that only a transmission from said first model train is received by an infrared receiver in said remote control device;

associating, in said remote control, at least one control input with a control function for said vehicle with said ID

providing a command to said model train from said remote control device, using said ID, along a communication channel separate from said limited field transmission.

14. A model vehicle comprising:

a processor configured to receive commands from a remote control unit via commands received from a communication channel;

a transmitter mounted in said vehicle for directing a transmission that can be received by said remote control unit independent of said communication channel; and

means for limiting said transmission so that only a narrow transmission is received from a single vehicle is received by said remote control unit when positioned in a field of said transmission.

15. The model vehicle of claim 14 wherein said processor is programmed to periodically cause an ID associated with said model vehicle to be transmitted by said transmitter.

16. The model vehicle of claim 14 wherein said transmitter comprises an IR LED, and where said means for limiting the transmission of said transmission comprises a barrier around said LED formed by a recess in said model vehicle.

17. The model vehicle of claim 14 wherein said transmitter is mounted in a windshield of said vehicle.

18. The model vehicle of claim 14 wherein said vehicle is a train, and said communication channel is over the train tracks.

19. A remote control unit for controlling a plurality of model vehicles, comprising:

a processor configured to generate a plurality of commands to designated vehicles identified by IDs, in accordance with inputs provided by a user, over a first communication channel;

a receiver mounted in said remote control device, for receiving a transmission from a first model vehicle, separate from said communication channel, with an ID of said first model vehicle; and

said processor being configured to send a command to said first model vehicle, over said first communication channel, using said ID received by said transmission, in response to a user input.

20. The remote control unit of claim 19 wherein:

said model vehicle is a model train;

said transmission is an IR transmission; and

said first communication channel includes providing commands to said model train over the train tracks.

21. A system for controlling model vehicles, comprising:

a first model vehicle including

a processor configured to receive commands via commands a first communication channel,

a transmitter mounted in said first model vehicle for directing a transmission that can be received independent of said first communication channel, and

means for limiting said transmission so that only a narrow transmission is received from a single vehicle is received by a receiver positioned in said field of said transmission; and

a remote control unit for controlling said model vehicles, including

a processor configured to generate a plurality of commands to designated vehicles identified by IDs, in accordance with inputs provided by a user, over said first communication channel;

a receiver mounted in said remote control device, for receiving a transmission from said first model vehicle, separate from said communication channel, with an ID of said first model vehicle; and

said processor being configured to send a command to said first model vehicle, over said first communication channel, using said ID received by said transmission, in response to a user input.